

REMARKS

The application has been amended to correct the cited informalities, to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art of record, and to place the application as a whole, into *prima facie* condition for allowance. Substantial care has been taken to avoid the introduction of any new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner has objected to the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed in the instant application, on the following bases: 1) that a concise explanation of the relevance of JP 63-186575 was not provided in the IDS; 2) that references JP-A-62-218080 and JP-A-63-47076 were not listed in the IDS, nor were copies provided; and 3) that the non-patent e-Top reference was not listed in the IDS (though it was considered). In response thereto, Applicant will be submitting a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, which will address the Examiner's bases for objection nos. 1) and 2). With respect to item 3), Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's statement, and respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the middle of page 2 of the previously-filed IDS, wherein the e-Top non-patent reference is discussed. The supplemental IDS and corresponding PTO-1449 to be filed will include reference to the e-Top reference.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the following bases: 1) Figs. 49 and 57 are purportedly not of sufficient quality to permit examination; 2) Figs. 59 - 64 need to be designated "PRIOR ART"; and 3) the drawings need to have English-language figure designations. In response thereto, Applicant submits herewith a complete set of replacement drawings, in which all of the Examiner's aforementioned objections have been addressed. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the Examiner's objections should be deemed overcome, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract on the basis that it contains in excess of 150 words, and that it contains language inappropriate for an Abstract. In response thereto, Applicant has deleted the originally-filed Abstract, in its entirety, and substituted a new Abstract of less than 150 words, for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's bases for objection to the Abstract should be deemed overcome. Entry, consideration and acceptance of the substitute Abstract are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 - 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for purportedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has: 1) objected to the recitations in claims 1 - 3 and 5 referring to sections in X-Y and Z directions; 2) objected to "feeder member" in claim 6 as lacking antecedent basis. In response thereto, Applicant has: 1) deleted the objected-to recitations in claims 1 - 3 and 5; and 2) amended "feeder" in claim 5 to "feeder member" to provide antecedent basis for same in claim 6. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's bases for rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph should be deemed overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 - 6 and 9 - 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Beecroft*, US 2,632,889. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Beecroft*, US 2,632,889 in view of *Salleras Escalante*, US 4,405,073. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's substantive bases for rejection of the claims.

Applicant's invention of amended independent claims 1, 2 and 5 each recite the limitations of: areas of the top side portion define surfaces and areas of the bottom side portion define voids corresponding to said areas of the top

side portion defining surfaces, and areas of the top side portion define voids and areas of the bottom side portion define surfaces corresponding to said areas of the top side portion defining voids. Applicant respectfully submits that the *Beecroft*, US 2,632,889 reference completely fails to teach or suggest such a structure. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that newly amended independent claims 1, 2 and 5 each should be deemed to patentably distinguish over the cited *Beecroft*, US 2,632,889 patent reference. Therefore, reconsideration of claims 1, 2 and 5, withdrawal of the rejections thereof, and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 5 are respectfully solicited.

Inasmuch as dependent claims 3, 4, and 6 - 11 all serve to further define the subject matter of independent claims 1, 2 and 5, respectively, which independent claims should themselves be deemed allowable, reconsideration of claims 3, 4 and 6 - 11, withdrawal of the rejections thereof, and allowance thereof, are respectfully solicited.

Applicant has added new dependent claims 12 and 13, which depend from independent claims 1 and 2, respectively. Applicant submits that new dependent claims 12 and 13 likewise should be deemed allowable. Therefore, entry, consideration and allowance of new claims 12 and 13 are respectfully solicited.


In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that the application as a whole, including all of claims 1 - 13, is in *prima facie* condition for allowance at this time. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned at (312) 456-8400 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

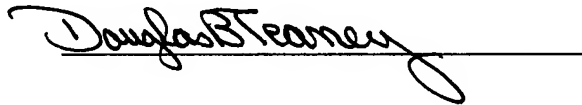
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

Dated: July 9, 2007


Douglas B. Teaney
One of Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT AND COMMUNICATION is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 9, 2007.



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the drawing sheets presently of record with the attached drawing sheets.